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FR 2,752,559 to Dixneuf discloses a carton having an aperture structured to refresh the neck of an article within it.

5 US 4,646,917 to Schuster disclose a wraparound carrier having an aperture structured to retain the neck of an article within it.

US 5,022,525 to Schuster discloses a wraparound carrier having an aperture with tabs struck from the aperture to retain a portion of the neck of an article within it.

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Summary of the Invention

According to a first aspect of the invention a top closure panel for closing the top of an open-topped container, the panel having at least one aperture, each to receive a portion of an article held within the container, and having a tear feature for enlarging the size of the or each aperture, the tear feature comprising at least one discrete group of score lines, the score lines radiating from the aperture substantially perpendicular to a notional radial line characterised in that the relationship between the score lines in the group is such that removal of an article through the aperture causes a tear to propagate divergently between successive radial score lines from the notional radial line thereby causing the size of the aperture to be progressively increased.

20 25 Preferably the aperture comprises means for initiating tearing of the panel disposed between the aperture and the or each group of score lines.

Preferably the initiating means comprises a further score line disposal substantially on the notional radial line.

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Preferably the or each discrete group of score lines comprises at least two score lines wherein the score line furthest from the aperture is longer than a score line closest to the aperture.

35 Preferably the or each discrete group of score lines comprises five score lines concentrically arranged such that a score line closest to an aperture is in

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overlapping relation with at least two score lines further spaced from the aperture.

Preferably a termination of one score line is spaced between 1mm and 5mm
5 from a termination of an adjacent score line.

Preferably the top closure panel is prevented from being completely released from the open top container by a retaining means provided by the top closure panel, wherein the retaining means is so adapted as to engage
10 complementary retaining means within the open top container.

Preferably the score lines are of substantially equal length.

Preferably the score lines furthest from the aperture are larger than the score
15 lines closest to the aperture

According to a second aspect of the invention a blank for forming a top closure panel for closing the top of an open-topped container, the panel having at least one aperture, each to receive a portion of an article held within
20 the container, and having a tear feature for enlarging the size of the or each aperture, the tear feature comprising at least one discrete group of score lines, the score lines radiating from the aperture substantially perpendicular to a notional radial line characterised in that the relationship between the score lines in the group is such that removal of an article through the aperture
25 causes a tear to propagate divergently between successive radial score lines from the notional radial line thereby causing the size of the aperture to be progressively increased.

Preferably the or each discrete group of score lines comprises at least two
30 score lines wherein the score line furthest from the aperture is longer than the score line closest to the aperture.

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Preferably the tearing feature further comprises an initiating means which extends normally from an edge of the aperture and towards the group of short slits.

- 5 Preferably the initiating score line extends radially along the notional radial line substantially towards the centre of the score line closest to the aperture.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 10 An exemplary embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which;

Figure 1, shows a first part of a blank for forming a carton according to one embodiment of the invention;

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Figure 2, shows a second part of a blank for forming a carton according to one embodiment of the invention;